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and completing an image to be recorded on the same record area,

wherein the thinning-out mask is defined so that printable duties corresponding to each of a plurality of divided areas obtained by dividing the same main scan print area in a sub-scan direction different from a main scan direction are different from each other.

#### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Notice of Allowance Action dated September 30, 2002. Claims 1-38 are pending in this application, with Claims 1-24 having been allowed in the Notice of Allowance. Claim 2 has been amended only as to matters of form, so as to be in conformity with Claim 1. Claims 25-38 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 11, and 18-38 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note that apparatus Claims 25-31 and method Claims 32-38 respectively correspond to each other. Applicants submit that Claims 25-38 include features similar to allowed Claim 23, and therefore are allowable for the same reasons related to Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants therefore request that Claims 25-38 be allowed and entry of this amendment.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES TO CLAIM 2

2. (Amended) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printing duty [setting] determining means [sets] determines the printing duties of the divided areas in the same main scan print area situated at the ends of the print head to smaller values than those of the divided areas situated on the inner side of the ends of the print head, the same main scan print area being formed by the plurality of the main scans.

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